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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Seventh session
Geneva, 23 November-11 December 1992

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The seventh session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17, will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 23 November to 11 December 1992. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 23 November 1992, at 10.30 a.m.

2. The attached provisional agenda and annotations for the seventh session of the Committee have been prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Committee.

3. The attention of the States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 5, containing the list of reports that will be before the Committee at its seventh session.

4. A pre-sessional working group of the Committee composed of five members, established in accordance with rule 56 of the rules of procedure, met for a period of one week at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 29 June to 3 July 1992.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Organization of work.

3. Action by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session, the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992 and the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

4. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant.

5. Consideration of reports:

   (a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant;

   (b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant.

6. General discussion on the right to take part in cultural life as recognized in article 15 of the Covenant.

7. Preparatory activities relating to the World Conference on Human Rights.

8. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies.

9. Formulation of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies.

10. Report of the Committee to the Economic and Social Council.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 5 of the rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda of any session shall be the adoption of the agenda, except for the election of its officers when required under rule 14. In accordance with rule 6 the Committee, during a session, may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, add, delete or defer items.

2. Organization of work

In accordance with rule 8 of its rules of procedure, at the beginning of each session, the Committee shall consider appropriate organizational matters, including the schedule of its meetings and the possibility of holding a general discussion on the measures adopted and the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant. In this connection, the attention of the members of the Committee is drawn to the draft programme of work for the session, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and in accordance with established practice (E/C.12/1992/L.1).

3. Action by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session, the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992 and the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session

The Committee, at its fourth session, decided that, at its future sessions, a new item should be added to its agenda so as to enable it to reflect on any feedback received from the discussion of its work by the Council, as well as by the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly (E/1990/23, para. 297).

The attention of the members of the Committee is drawn to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/10 of 21 February 1992 in which the Commission, inter alia, welcomed the contribution of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which continued to give impetus to the implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Covenant; welcomed the decision of the Committee to urge all States parties to submit reports on time and to take appropriate measures in relation to those States parties whose reports were long overdue; welcomed the continuing adoption by the Committee of general comments and encouraged the Committee to continue using that mechanism to develop a fuller appreciation of the obligation of States parties under the Covenant; took note with particular interest of General Comment No. 4 (1991) on the right to adequate housing and the reaffirmed importance attached in that framework to respect for human dignity and the principle of non-discrimination. In its resolution 1992/80 of 5 March 1992, the Commission, inter alia, invited the committees set up under the International Covenants on Human Rights to make suggestions and proposals for the implementation of advisory services and requested the Secretary-General to give special attention to their proposals.

The attention of the members of the Committee is also drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/11 of 20 July 1992 in which the Council, inter alia, reaffirmed the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as major parts of the international effort to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms; welcomed the adoption by the Committee of general comments and encouraged the Committee to continue using that mechanism to develop a fuller appreciation of the obligations of States parties under the Covenant.

The Council, acting upon the Committee's recommendations (E/1992/23, Chap. I, Draft decisions I, II and III), adopted:

(a) Decision 1992/259, by which it authorized, on an exceptional basis, the holding of an extraordinary additional session of the Committee, of three weeks' duration, in the first half of 1993;

(b) Decision 1992/260, in which it appealed to the following States, which have been parties to the Covenant for more than 10 years but which have yet to submit even the initial report required by the Covenant, to do so as soon as possible: Bolivia, Central African Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Suriname;

(c) Decision 1992/261, by which it took note of the decision of the Committee to inform the Government of the Dominican Republic of its offer to provide technical assistance in relation to efforts to promote full compliance with the Covenant and approved the Committee's initiative, subject to the acceptance of the Committee's offer by the State party concerned.

The Committee will have before it under this item the following documents:

(a) Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1992/10 and 1992/80;

(b) Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/11 and decisions 1992/259, 1992/260 and 1992/261;

(c) The relevant General Assembly resolutions.

4. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 59, paragraph 1, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall at each session consider the status of submission of reports under article 16 of the Covenant and may make appropriate recommendations to the Council, including recommendations to the effect that the Secretary-General should send reminders to States parties from which reports have not been received.

In connection with the consideration of this item, the attention of the Committee is drawn to document E/C.12/1990/5, containing the revised schedule for the submission of reports by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant.

The Committee will have before it under this item the following documents:

(a) Revised schedule for the submission of reports by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/1990/5);

(b) A note by the Secretary-General on the States parties to the Covenant and the status of submission of reports (E/C.12/1992/2);

(c) Revised general guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports to be submitted by States parties (E/C.12/1991/1);

(d) Any relevant General Assembly resolutions that may be adopted at the forty-seventh session, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/11 and decision 1992/260.

5. Consideration of reports

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 61, paragraph 2, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall normally consider the reports submitted by States parties under article 16 of the Covenant in the order in which they have been received by the Secretary-General. Representatives of the reporting States are entitled to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined; such representatives should be able to make statements on the reports submitted by their States and reply to questions which may be put to them by the members of the Committee.

The Committee, at its sixth session, having discussed the arrangements for the consideration of reports submitted by States parties, requested the Secretary-General to schedule nine reports from nine States parties for consideration at its seventh session. The Committee also decided to discuss at its seventh session the additional information submitted by France, the Netherlands, Jamaica, Jordan, the Philippines and Panama as a follow-up to the discussion of their respective reports.

In accordance with rule 62, paragraph 2, of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General will inform the States parties concerned of the opening date and duration of the seventh session of the Committee at which their respective reports will be examined and will invite them to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee.

As at 1 September 1992, the reports and additional information listed below had been received by the Secretary-General. The reports of the States parties which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its seventh session are identified by an asterisk. The tentative timetable for consideration of those reports, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, is contained in document E/C.12/1992/L.1.

Initial reports concerning articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant

Nicaragua*	(E/1986/3/Add.15)

Second periodic reports concerning articles 13 to 15 of the Covenant

Belarus*	(E/1990/7/Add.5)
Czech and Slovak Federal Republic*	(E/1990/7/Add.6)
Norway*	(E/1990/7/Add.7)
Russian Federation*	(E/1990/7/Add.8)
Poland*	(E/1990/7/Add.9)
Hungary*	(E/1990/7/Add.10)
Ukraine	(E/1990/7/Add.11)
Germany	(E/1990/7/Add.12)
Australia	(E/1990/7/Add.13)

Initial reports concerning articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant

New Zealand*	(E/1990/5/Add.5)
Iceland	(E/1990/5/Add.6)
Uruguay	(E/1990/5/Add.7)
Iran, Islamic Republic of	(E/1990/5/Add.9)
Viet Nam	(E/1990/5/Add.10)
New Zealand (Tokelau)*	(E/1990/5/Add.11)
New Zealand (Niue)*	(E/1990/5/Add.12)

Second periodic reports concerning articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant

Italy*	(E/1990/6/Add.2)
Canada	(E/1990/6/Add.3)

Additional information submitted by States parties to the Covenant following the consideration of their reports by the Committee

France*	(E/1989/5/Add.1)
Netherlands*	(E/1989/5/Add.2)
Jamaica*	(E/1989/5/Add.4)
Jordan*	(E/1989/5/Add.6)
Philippines*	(E/1989/5/Add.7)
Panama*	(E/1989/5/Add.8)

(b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 67 of its rules of procedure, the Committee is entrusted with the task of considering the reports submitted by specialized agencies pursuant to article 18 of the Covenant.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the specialized agencies concerned may make statements on matters falling within the scope of the activities of their respective organization in the course of the discussion by the Committee of the report of each State party to the Covenant. The representatives of the States parties presenting reports to the Committee shall be free to respond to, or take into account, the statements made by the specialized agencies. The Secretary-General has invited the following specialized agencies to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee: International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Any report which may be received from the specialized agencies under article 18 of the Covenant will be made available to the Committee in due course.

6. General discussion on the right to take part in cultural life as recognized in article 15 of the Covenant

At its sixth session, the Committee decided that at its seventh session a day of general discussion would be held on Monday, 7 December 1992, devoted to the right to take part in cultural life as recognized in article 15 of the Covenant. For this purpose, the Committee agreed to invite all interested agencies and individual experts to participate in its general discussion (E/1992/23, para. 379).

7. Preparatory activities relating to the World Conference on Human Rights

Under this item, the Committee will have before it the report of the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference and will receive an oral briefing on the sessions from one of its members. In the light of those reports, the Committee will consider any contribution that it may wish to make to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.

8. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies

The Committee decided at its sixth session to nominate individual members to follow the work of each of the other treaty bodies. Such members are to follow as closely as possible the work of the relevant committee, to liaise where possible with members of that committee and to present an oral report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on developments of both a procedural and substantive nature in the work of the committee which appeared to be of specific relevance to the work of the Committee (E/1992/23, paras. 371-373).

9. Formulation of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies

Pursuant to rule 64 of its rules of procedure, the Committee may wish to make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature on the basis of its consideration of reports submitted by States parties and the reports submitted

by specialized agencies, in order to assist the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant. The Committee may also wish to make suggestions for consideration by the Council with reference to articles 19, 22 and 23 of the Covenant.

10. Report of the Committee to the Economic and Social Council

In accordance with rule 57 of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall submit to the Council an annual report on its activities, including a summary of its consideration of the reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant.